

Wednesday, July 23, 2008
CORAL GABLES, FL
8,600 (16)
Newspaper (W)
35
Diabetes Research Institute

**Benefit for Diabetes
Research Institute**

It was a very active three days for the Shell Key West Challenge celebrating its 20th anniversary. Nearly 150 Shell executives, employees, jobbers and corporate sponsors convened in Key West for a friendly competition between anglers in addition to benefiting the Diabetes Research Institute.

This second annual benefit was a labor of love for **Hayden Blaylock**, founder and CEO of Blaylock Oil Company, along with his daughter and son-in-law, **Crystal Blaylock** and **John Sanchez**. Their eight-year-old son, **Matthew**, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2005 and since then the family has been dedicated to supporting the DRI. Raising more than \$110,000 this year, the event's cumulative proceeds are expected to surpass \$2 million with the next

Shell Key West Challenge.

Each morning, a friendly crew of volunteers served up breakfast and boxed lunches before sending 33 teams of anglers out into the gorgeous waters surrounding the Florida Keys. Racking up points by catching any of 15 species of fish, many of which were released after the weights were estimated, participants enjoyed two full days of fishing. DRI's Dr. **Juan Dominguez-Bendala**, Ph.D., and Dr. **Luca Inverardi**, M.D., were both thrilled to be part of Matthew and John Sanchez's team.

At the awards dinner held at Guy Harvey's Island Grille following the fishing expedition, the eight-year-old Matthew Sanchez who has diabetes told the crowd, "I want to thank everyone for coming because I don't want to have diabetes anymore. Responding to the child, Dr. Inverardi said, "Our goal at the DRI is to honor your wish and to find a cure for diabetes now."